[Translation]

Freedom Fighter Pension

2469. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide any pension, help and facilities to the family members of the deceased unmarried freedom fighters;

(b) whether a child belonging to the family of the freedom fighter who was dependent on him for education etc. is eligible for these facilities;

(c) whether any survey of such families has been made;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which the survey is likely to be conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. On the death of an unmarried freedom fighter, his/her mother, and if she is not alive, then father, becomes eligible for grant of dependent pension under the provisions of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme. They are also entitled for other related facilities provided by the Government to the dependents of the freedom fighters.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) At present no such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Red Light on MP's Vehicles

2470. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Members of Parliament are entitled to affix red light on their private vehicles;

(b) if so, whether the Government have issued any guidelines to the States for affixing red lights on their private vehicles;

(c) whether a proposal to make available the said facility to the Members of Parliament in near future is under consideration of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Use of lights (including red lights) in motor vehicles is governed in accordance with Rule 108 (iii) of Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989. The use of extra lights such as red lights/blue lights on top of the vehicle is permissible to only those vehicles used by specific dignitaries as notified by the Government of India or by the State Governments. Government of India have not yet notified any such dignitaries. However, the State Governments are notifying the lists of such dignitaries under the relevant rule.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under consideration at present of the Government (Ministry of Surface Transport) to provide this facility to the Members of Parliament in near future.

Renaming of Railway Station

2471. SHRI KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the approval of the Ministry is required for re-naming the railway stations;

(b) if so, the guidelines in this regard;

(c) whether 'Nauger' railway station is proposed to be named as 'Sidharth Nagar' railway station; and

(d) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing guidelines contain various broad principles which are required to be kept in view by the State Governments while examining the question of change in the names villages, towns, cities etc. The guidelines, inter-alia, mention that unless there is some very special reason, it is not desirable to change a name which people have got used to; that a change should not be made on grounds of local patriotism or for inguistic reasons or for merely satisfying local sentiments.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Smuggling of RDX

2472. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been invited to the news item captioned "RDX smuggled in diplomatic bags-Threat of ethnic strife looms over North-East" appearing in the 'Sunday Observer' dated January 19-25, 1997;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to check the threat of ethnic strife?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is alert about the clandestine induction of arms and ammunition by various North-East insurgent groups.

(c) Several steps have been taken which include, interalia, increased vigilance along the international borders, taking-up of our security related concerns appropriately with the neighbouring countries,